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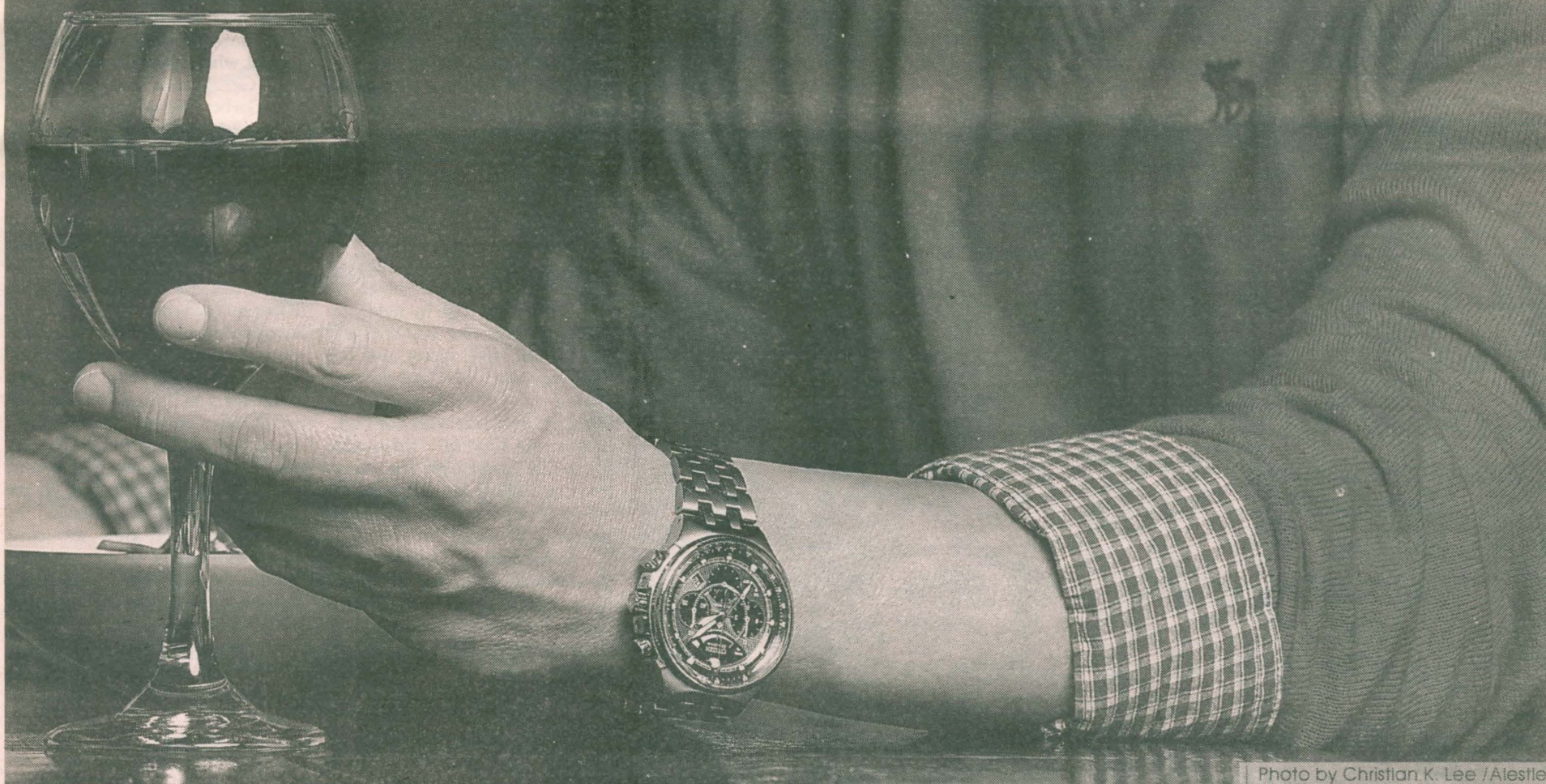


Photo by Christian K. Lee / Alestle

Teaser photo on the cover courtesy of Doug McIlhagga, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications.

NEWS

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact the Managing Editor at 650-3527 or news@alestlelive.com.

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Thursday, February 19, 2015

Alumnus opens Social Gastropub

Mike Garber hopes to serve university through his restaurant

BRITTANY COX
Alestle Reporter

SIUE alumnus Mike Garber, of Fairview Heights, recently opened a Social Gastropub in place of what used to be Shenanigans Bar & Grill. Garber's intentions after graduating did not include opening a restaurant, but his plans of being a teacher were pushed aside when the offers coming in after college were not what Garber was looking for.

Garber was involved on campus through different organizations and activities where he learned various leadership skills. He worked at the Early Childhood Center for two years and he was a member of the fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and ran for student body president as a write-in, where he had to network and shake many people's hands since he did not go through the normal platform system.

As a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Garber held many positions including vice president, treasurer and secretary.

"I always held offices in the fraternity, and there is a process for everything. There is a rhyme and a reason for everything, and you know, it made me a better delegator, made me a better planner, organizer, so I guess by default it falls back to the university, because I would've never been in the fraternity if it weren't for the university," Garber said.

Garber and his business partner, Bruce Gradkowski, have two other successful restaurants. The first restaurant is Gradkowski's located on the University of Toledo's campus where Gradkowski played football in college.

Gradkowski's is a higher-end restaurant that serves Italian style food, but is still Americanized. The second restaurant they own together was their first Social Gastropub located in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Garber got the opportunity to open his third restaurant, the Social Gastropub in Edwardsville, when he got a call saying that Shenanigans was going out of business, and it was a perfect location. When Garber reached out to the owners of Shenanigans Bar & Grill, the deal fell through because they wanted someone to buy the building, not lease.

About a month later, Garber got a call from the owners of Shenanigans, saying they were interested in leasing the building and out of the 15 people they had to interview, Garber was the only one they called.

"If you're a true restaurant person, you always get pulled back in," Garber said.

Garber and Gradkowski worked out a deal with the owners and are now in their fifth month of business.

Garber said the restaurant's name may seem confusing at first, but it describes the pub correctly.

"The name Gastropub throws a lot of people off. The name — in a nutshell — is basically what it is; we have the 'gastro' side of things which is the food, and the pub side of things, which is the drink side of things, Garber said.

The restaurant is set up to promote a social environment for all ages.

"We have communal tables here, so you may be sitting at a table on Friday or Saturday night



"Gastropub is about combining great food and great drinks," Garber said.

| Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

with four different groups and you don't know who any of them are," Garber said.

Garber said the Gastropub has communal tables that try to make people feel more comfortable. Since the tables are set up like this, it allows all ages to in-

teract with each other, which overall makes the environment feel very welcoming. Garber wants people to come in and feel comforted by the atmosphere and the food they sell. A gastropub itself is meant to serve unique cocktails and comfort food, which attracts a lot of customers.

"When we opened Social Gastropub I wanted to have two things: I wanted to have the best mac and cheese that anybody has had, and I wanted to have the best fish tacos. Our top two sellers are the fish tacos and the build-your-own mac and cheese," Garber said. "We just pair our high-end cocktails with our high-end tasting food at a reasonable price that is suitable for everybody, which is our environment which is our namesake. We want people to be social."

Ultimately, Garber and Gradkowski wanted to give back to the university. The restaurant offers a 25 percent discount to students with a valid student ID card.

"That's how he [Garber] wants to give back to his university, by giving the students the 25 percent discount. We've been there before you know. As a student, you got to go after your dreams, and for young kids to

come here and to see something that someone built that went to school where they do is good to see," Gradkowski said.

Garber said aspiring business owners should know the ground work is the most important part.

"You know, for me, for everybody, it should be about getting the ground work. You need to do the research and spend time with other people and learn. There are so many items that come up on a daily basis, that unless you have that life experience of working for somebody else for a while it's going to be pretty difficult for you," Garber said. "Go off of other people, and ask questions and learn from other people's mistakes and it makes your life a lot easier when you go to open something for yourself."

Garber said they are currently looking for servers and bartenders to hire due to the patio season opening soon. You can visit Social Gastropub's website socialgastropub.com for contact information and to learn a little more about what a gastropub really is.



SIUE graduate and Social Gastropub co-owner Mark Garber (right) is seated with NFL athlete and Social Gastropub co-owner Bruce Gradkowski (left). | Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

Brittany Cox can be reached at bcox@alestlelive.com or 650-3525.

Professor charged with DUI on campus

University grants Nordstrom paid leave of absence

PUJA MEHTA

Alestle Reporter

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, Cynthia Nordstrom, a psychology professor, was placed on paid administrative leave after being charged with driving under the influence, after driving into a parked car on campus.

According to the police report, Nordstrom's words were jumbled when talking to the university police after the accident.

"During this interaction, I began to notice Nordstrom's speech was heavily slurred. I asked Nordstrom why her speech was slurring. Nordstrom stated she had fallen a few weeks ago and had a concussion for which she was taking painkillers," officer Mark Ferrell said in the police report. "I asked Nordstrom if she was allowed to drive while on the medication. Nordstrom advised Dr. Akin from Madison County had released her to drive a few weeks ago. I further inquired as to where Dr. Akin's office was located. Nordstrom appeared to be confused and eventually said Edwardsville. I asked Nordstrom if she had consumed any alcohol today and she stated she had not. Nordstrom again stated she was a professor of psychology and needed to get to her class. I asked where she would be teaching. Nordstrom stated she would be in [Alumni Hall] Room 0119. I allowed her to go into Alumni Hall to teach her class."

After allowing Nordstrom to go, Ferrell spoke to the victim and owner of the car Nordstrom hit, who believed Nordstrom had been drinking.

"[The victim] stated she was a nurse and strongly believed Nordstrom had been drinking. ... I walked to the driver's side of Nordstrom's vehicle and located several ice cubes and a liquid splash pattern indicating it came from the driver's side of the vehicle. I picked up an ice cube and immediately detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage," Ferrell said.

Upon this discovery, the police report said Ferrell found Nordstrom in Alumni Hall with Sgt. [Dan] Murphy, Officer [Thomas] Poenitske and [Paul] Rose, the psychology department chairman.

"I advised Nordstrom we needed to speak somewhere in private. Nordstrom escorted us to her office. While walking, I noticed Nordstrom swaying. Once inside Nordstrom's office, I advised her she was not being truthful about her alcohol consumption. I advised Nordstrom I had located an alcoholic beverage next to her vehicle. Nordstrom stated she had consumed some vodka and two glasses of wine this morning. Nordstrom then stated she had only vodka and orange juice this morning, because the wine was last night," Ferrell said. "I advised Nordstrom I needed to conduct [Standardized Field Sobriety Testing] because she had several indicators of alcohol impairment. Nordstrom said she would consent to SFST."

After conducting the test, Ferrell reported the Intoximeter EC/IR showed a 0.241 blood alcohol content — nearly three times the legal limit of 0.08.

Managing the incident at the administrative level

Although the incident occurred Jan. 14, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications Doug McIlhagga said the media did not inquire about the situation until weeks later.

"Well it came up a couple weeks after the incident actually occurred, which is a little unusual, but you know, you field a number of calls and inquiries about it and you try to give as much clarity to the situation as you can, considering the confidential nature of human resource processes," McIlhagga said. "When you get calls, you try to give as much information as you are legally capable of doing. And anytime you're dealing with a human resources and personnel situation, it's always a matter of confidentiality and how much you are able to share. You just have to try to help people get their story, and shine the best light on the institution as possible."

As a result of the occurrence, Nordstrom was placed on paid administrative leave.

Although faculty members are doing their best to field questions regarding this incident, Rose said a permanent decision about Nordstrom's consequences has not yet been made.

"We have to wait for many different decisions to occur at the university before we know what's going to happen in future terms," Rose said. "There are procedures within the university policy that determine leaves and actions that are taken in an incident like this, and I can't comment on the details. The university has policies that it carefully follows in an incident like this, and no two cases are exactly the same. So everybody who is involved in the decision is able to look at their different options and make a decision about what makes the most sense for that situation. And they're not necessarily permanent decisions. Sometimes, in a variety of university cases, you have to do something temporarily, and then there could be a different decision later on, as more evidence comes in and more deliberation has occurred."

"This is one of those instances where the actions of one person can always put a blemish on the institution, but you always try to react as best you can in those situations."

Doug McIlhagga
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications

According to McIlhagga, several people decided the terms of Nordstrom's absence.

"Well, for a paid administrative leave, there's a variety of factors that are taken into account, and then those personnel decisions are confidential, but the decision is made by several people that review the facts and circumstances of the situation. And in this particular case, it's the department chair, the dean of the school, human resources and the provost's office. It's like any committee; there's a discussion of facts and you come to an agreement," McIlhagga said. "I'm not speaking for [those who decided her paid administrative leave] but I'm sure they

figured that you're looking out for the best interest of a faculty member who is one of your employees that you care about, and want to see their life and their professional career continue on a positive basis. So, what is the best course to get that person back on track."

Since the disciplinary process is still going on, McIlhagga said no final decisions regarding the terms of Nordstrom's absence have been ruled out.

"You'd have to say all options are open at this point," McIlhagga said.

Rose said the university is following the disciplinary process as efficiently as it can.

"I can't give details about any length of time for the disciplinary process, I can only tell you that SIUE acts fairly and takes the amount of time that's necessary to make the needed decisions in that situation. So nobody is going to drag their feet in a situation like this where we really need to make sure they are getting the courses that they need," Rose said.

Nordstrom's colleagues step in during her absence

According to Rose, the solution was to have other professors take over Nordstrom's classes, and was made promptly because Joel Nadler and Mike Dudley volunteered.

"We have very cooperative faculty in the psychology department, and as soon as we realized that we had an emergency — that we had to get this filled — we quickly had these two professors step forward. One of them, Dr. Joel Nadler, has taken two classes: a graduate class, and also an undergraduate class. And he's being paid overload pay for those two classes. And then, the third class was taken by Dr. Mike Dudley — again, both of them volunteered quickly because they knew it was an emergency situation — and he's paid overload pay for that class that he took," Rose said.

Although the professors' salaries and Nordstrom's paid leave of absence come from the school of

the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior] generously funded these courses that we absolutely had to cover," Rose said.

The new professors in charge have not taught the classes they took over before, but Rose said the professors have specialties similar to Nordstrom's.

"[Professor Nordstrom] is in an area of expertise, industrial organizational psychology, that Dr. Nadler is also in, and so he has similar expertise [to] what Dr. Nordstrom has. And then Dr. Mike Dudley is in a very similar field. He's a social psychologist, and it is regular for social psychologists to also teach undergraduate industrial organizational psychology classes," Rose said. "Because [Dudley and Nadler] took responsibility for the course, and needed to have control for how it would be for the rest of the semester, they did produce new syllabi. In a general sense, the topic is of course unchanged, but the specific details were determined by these instructors so they could teach the course in a way that made sense to them."

Even though Nadler and Dudley are familiar with the subject matter, Rose said they had to come up with how they wanted to teach the courses relatively fast.

"I give full credit to how quick [Dudley and Nadler] were to volunteer and step up like this. We all have full-time jobs as it is, so just suddenly reorienting into new classes is a big challenge for these professors. I'm extremely grateful that they stepped up so quickly," Rose said. "Normally, when a professor knows they have a brand new course to teach, they have about five or six months of notice in order to get ready for that. ... We've shared materials throughout the department so that both of them could come in and teach effectively."

While the courses Nordstrom taught will see some changes, Rose said students have not dropped the classes, and they will not have to worry about making further adjustments the rest of the semester.

"I can tell you that these instructors that have taken these three courses are going to have them covered for the whole semester. We didn't want any disruptions with the students having even more changes in the instructors, and so this is a permanent solution for the entire semester," Rose said. "I've seen no evidence that there's been dropping of the classes. And another fortunate thing about Dr. Nadler and Dr. Dudley being the people that took over these classes is that they are both very well respected by the students. And if you read what students say about their teaching, they're both very highly regarded. So I have a lot of confidence that those classes are going well."

Nordstrom's students respond to the news

While this occurrence might have been surprising for several students at the university, an anonymous psychology student, who has had Nordstrom in the past, was especially taken aback.

"So in this class I had with her, [we] had a group project at the end of the year. And [we] got [our] groups the first day of school based on who [we] were sitting by. So I actually became really close with the



Staff photo of Professor Cynthia Nordstrom. | Photo courtesy of slue.edu

kids in my group, and the way I found out was one of them texted me and sent me the link, and said 'Oh my God, did you read this?' And at first I thought maybe it was a joke or something, but then everyone was talking about it later that evening. So that's how I found out, but I was really shocked," the anonymous student said.

The anonymous student said the reason this incidence was so jarring was partly due to Nordstrom's personality in the classroom.

"Honestly, she's super nice. She's a super generous teacher because she always worked with you no matter if you did something wrong or if you forgot something. She was always helpful and she was always available to help. She is a really personable teacher, like she knew everyone's name and things like that," the anonymous student said. "I know last semester she had some medical issues. Her knees were kind of bad. There were a few times where class have to be cancelled because her knee when out that day or something like that, but I never noticed she was drunk or anything like that."

Nordstrom was not only regarded a good professor by the anonymous student, but they also felt they could identify with her.

"I think something must've happened or there must've been a personal reason. So I feel for her just because I've had her before and I see how sympathetic she is towards her students and how well she works with her students," the anonymous student said.

Department of Psychology looks to the future

Whether the situation is justifiable or not, McIlhagga said he thinks this will affect the university's enrollment.

"The thing you're always most concerned about are the students in the classes, and the chair of the department has that covered. So we appear to have recovered quite quickly," McIlhagga said. "You can't predetermine or try to guess what is going through the minds of prospective students as they try to select a college. Generally, the factors range from quality of academics, cost, location for that particular individual, and the course of study in which they are interested. So can surrounding issues like this perhaps happen and influence someone? There's always a possibility, but it's probably not as likely to factor in."

The anonymous student said

NORDSTROM | from pg. 3

they believe this situation will not put the psychology department in a bad light.

"The psychology department is really awesome and I have loved every single one of my professors, and as far as I can tell, they're handling the situation very well. I just think it will take time to move on," the anonymous student said. "I would say that this is just one situation, one incident, and this kind of stuff probably happens pretty often throughout the country and at all the colleges and universities."

Rose said this incidence is a small occurrence in a successful department.

"I think that the huge amount of positive news and awards and everything that everyone hears about the psychology department is going to shape people's impression. We don't control all of the news that's out there, but I think people will find out a lot of positive things about the psychology department," Rose said.

As for the future, the anonymous student said they will not disagree with the university's decision either way.

"I do believe that everyone

makes mistakes, but at the same time, if [the university] does bring her back or if they don't, I wouldn't object either way," the anonymous student said. "If they decided to bring her back, I'm sure there would be things she would have to do — like disciplinary things. So if they brought her back and she went through all that and everything seemed to be better, then I would consider taking her again, maybe in a year or two."

According to McIlhagga, the university is trying to continue to keep up the good work, and focus on the positive side of the situation.

"This is one of those instances where the actions of one person can always put a blemish on the institution, but you always try to react as best you can in those situations," McIlhagga said. You've got an administrative individual that needs some help, so as an institution, you try and step forward to help those folks. And in the mean time, we just try to keep doing the good work that we're doing. Be very pleased that we have faculty members willing to step into a situation like that and take on that load."

Puja Mehta can be reached at pmehta@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

Campus Snow Day Monday, Feb. 16



Danielle Myers visited the campus during the Monday, Feb. 16 snow day to sled the hills with her daughter.



Prospective students and parents take a campus tour during the snow day. "While we support the campus' decision to cancel classes, we wanted to accommodate prospective students and parents who traveled a great distance to visit our university," Assistant Director of Admissions Ryan Downey said.

Have a story idea
or news tip?



We are always interested
in hearing about news in
our community!

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at alestlelive.com.

Students enjoy first snow day of the semester

An e-Lert was sent out Sunday, Feb. 15, informing students that all day and evening classes scheduled on Monday, Feb. 16 were cancelled due to inclement weather. The snow day was the first of the 2014-2015 academic year.

| Photos by Christian K. Lee/Alestle



Students work together to remove snow from a car on Monday, Feb. 16.

arts &
issues

Season 2014-2015

**MILLS/works
COMPULSION DANCE THEATRE and the
MODERN AMERICAN DANCE COMPANY (MADCO)**

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Dunham Hall Theater

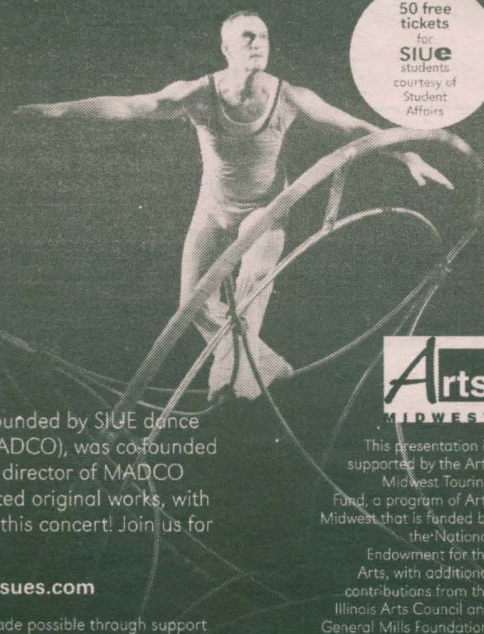
Sponsored by Commerce Bank

As a part of the 30th Arts & Issues celebration, we commemorate three dance companies—two founded by SIUE dance alumni Michael Mizerany and Joseph Mills. The third, the Modern American Dance Company (MADCO), was co-founded by Aline Wiltz, who established the academic dance program at SIUE. Current executive/artistic director of MADCO Stacy West is also an SIUE alum. MILLS/works and Compulsion Dance Theatre will perform selected original works, with MADCO performing an excerpt from "Liquid Roads" with live musicians. You won't want to miss this concert! Join us for a variety of entertaining and inspiring dance works.

Tickets can be purchased at the Morris University Center Information Desk or artsandissues.com

"Liquid Roads" was created and choreographed by Gina Patterson. Music direction by Brian Casserly. "Liquid Roads" was made possible through support from Novus International and Ameren.

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This presentation is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council and General Mills Foundation.

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SIUE POLICE BLOTTER

2-11-15

An officer responded to 428 Cougar Village regarding a community director being informed of possible child neglect.

An officer issued a citation to McGraw W. Millhaven for illegal use of an electronic device while driving at South University Drive at P2 Road.

An officer issued a citation to Travis D. Shubert for speeding 63 mph in a 45 mph speed zone. The offense occurred on South University Drive at Stadium Drive.

An officer responded for carbon dioxide alarm activation in 419 Cougar Village. The officer said a resident pushed the button to test it and did not realize it would set an active alarm. The area was secured.

2-12-15

A subject reported an aggravated domestic battery that occurred at 524 Cougar Village. Darien L. McGhee was located in Lot 5D and was transported back to the SIUE Police Department for questioning. McGhee was arrested for aggravated battery, processed and taken to Madison County Jail pending warrant application.

An officer took report of a traffic accident involving a vehicle and a deer. The accident occurred on North University Drive. No injuries or road blockage were reported.

An officer issued a citation to Corey M. Flynn for speeding 62 mph in a 45 mph speed zone. The offense occurred on South University Drive and Stadium Drive.

An officer issued a citation to Morgan E. Cundall for speeding 42 mph in a 25 mph speed zone. The offense occurred at South University Drive and South Circle Drive.

An officer responded to 530 Cougar Village regarding residents saying they woke up in the middle of the night and their front door was open. The residents said nothing was taken. The area was secured.

Officers responded to Mo-toMart and contacted Lauren N. Klingele who was subsequently arrested for obstruction of justice. Klingele was transported to the SIUE Police Department where she was processed and transported to Madison County Jail pending application of felony charges.

Madison County Jail said Andrew Derleth turned himself in on a SIUE arrest warrant for possession of cannabis over 30 grams. An SIUE police officer responded to Madison County Jail and served the arrest warrant to Derleth. The bond was set at \$20,000.

An officer issued a citation to Jordan R. Brandenburger for speeding 61 mph in a 45 mph speed zone. The offense occurred on South University Drive at Stadium Drive.

Mariya E. Jones was issued a citation for no insurance and a warning for speeding 57 mph in a 45 mph speed zone and no driver's license on her person. The offense occurred on South University Drive at Stadium Drive.

An officer took a report of a vehicle accident that occurred in Woodland Hall Circle involving two vehicles. No injuries were reported.

2-13-15

An officer met with a student regarding suspicious activity regarding the U.S. Census Bureau. The officer determined the activity to be an actual U.S. Census Bureau function.

2-14-15

An officer responded to 532 Cougar Village for an active fire alarm. Housing was notified. The alarm was activated by a dishwasher and was restored.

A student reported his backpack had been taken from the Student Fitness Center. The student called back and stated the backpack had been taken by mistake and had been returned.

An officer issued a state citation to Christopher Dunkle for speeding 70 mph in a 45 mph speed zone on South University at Stadium Dr.

A resident assistant in Prairie Hall reported a suspicious odor coming from a room in the east wing of the second floor. An officer contacted a resident who admitted to smoking marijuana off campus but denied having any in the room. The resident then voluntarily relinquished a bottle of liquor to the officer.

Officer met with a subject and her roommate in reference to a verbal argument that had occurred between them.

An officer responded to a report of an odor of cannabis coming from a room on the 2nd floor of Woodland Hall. The officer contacted a resident of the room who relinquished a small amount of marijuana.

2-15-15

Officers responded to a burglary trouble signal at the Administrative Office in the MUC as a precaution to make sure everything is secure.

2-17-15

An officer responded to Rendleman Hall regarding an employee receiving a harassing telephone call.

An officer took a walk in report of a domestic battery that occurred in Cougar Village. The incident occurred on Feb. 15, and the investigation continues.

Officers responded to a 911 call of a possible disturbance at Cougar Village 529. The officers determined a domestic battery occurred between a female and her boyfriend, and both subjects refused to press charges.

Soulard Mardi Gras 2015



A number of SIUE students attend the Soulard Mardi Gras Parade in St. Louis, Mo. on Saturday, Feb. 14, the second largest Mardi Gras celebration in the country. | Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle



A Mardi Gras goer flashes a group of people throwing beads during the Mardi Gras celebrations on Saturday, Feb. 14. | Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

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BAHA'I COMMUNITY NIGHT

Friday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Center for Spirituality and Sustainability

The evening will be dedicated to a nationwide initiative undertaken by the Baha'is of the United States called **Education Is Not a Crime** to garner support for all those denied access to higher education in Iran, including Baha'is. The film, *To Light A Candle*, will be shown. Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari (subject of the feature film *Rosewater*) produced the film.

STUDENTS WELCOME

PERFORMANCE REM WORLD OF EXPLOI

PUJA MEHTA
Alestle Reporter

Racism and exploitation are coming soon to the Metcalf Theater in "Venus," a play based on a true story about a woman taken from her home and paraded across the world for her appearance.

"Venus" actor and senior theater performance major Josh Funneman, of Teutopolis, said this play deals with disturbing issues.

"This girl was taken from her country and, through a series of crazy events, she ended up being put on to a freak show just because she was an African woman — and England had never seen anything like her at the time — mostly because of her large ass," Funneman said. "So, she was put in a freak show and just treated awfully. From there, she ended up being purchased from the person that was running the freak show by this doctor who had this perverted thing with her; but also, the biggest goal was to dissect her and use her for science. There was a whole debate whether Venus — or Sarah [Saartjie] Baartman was her name — whether she put herself in the situation to try to make money or she was forced into the situation by the people in power."

"Venus" director Kathryn Bentley, an associate professor of theater performance, said the distressing topics covered in the show will provoke the audience.

"The topic of exploitation is uncomfortable in general. So this writer, Suzan-Lori Parks, has a way of taking the uncomfortable issues and putting them onstage in a way that is not conventional. It's not like she's just telling you a history lesson," Bentley said. "She's going to do it through characters that are questionable, multifaceted, multidimensional, and that make you scratch your head and say, 'Wow, that person really just said that.' That's just how she writes. It's not clear-cut types of things — it can get messy. And it challenges you to keep up with the humor and keep up with the issues."

Although the subject matter of the production is serious, Bentley said there are funny moments, too.

"It's not a comedy by any stretch of the imagination; but as in life, there are going to be things that could be considered humorous," Bentley said.

Even though some parts may seem comedic, Funneman said they may also be peculiar.

"There's comical moments in there that lift you, but then, you're laughing at something and you're like, 'Oh, I probably shouldn't be laughing at that,'" Funneman said. "Suzan-Lori Parks has a really weird way of writing; like, the first scene is also the last scene. The language is really odd — it's not how people normally talk."

Aside from the humorous components of the play, Bentley said there are also musical aspects.

"I love music, and I love movement. So there is an element of that," Bentley said. "I've cast as Venus, the lead character, a young lady who graduated from our program several years ago, who is now a professional singer in the area, Olivia. And Olivia not only brings a sense of professionalism, but also a beautiful voice. So she does have singing sometimes throughout. It's not necessarily in the script that she sings, but the script is so poetic that I liked to add that element."

Funneman said he is playing the role of a chorus member along with others.

"I am a chorus member — it's not a musical though. It's more like a chorus in the old Greek plays. It's like a group of people with the universal voice that kind of just represents the world. There's eight of us and we play a variety of characters throughout the show. Like, we're freaks with the Venus Hottentot; we are the perverted spectators of the Venus Hottentot. At one point we're judges," Funneman said. "Being one of the freaks is really fun. There's this one guy where his condition is he has a penis for a face."

While the musical aspects and the comedic components of the play distinguish it from others, Bentley said she chose to direct "Venus" due to the contemporary relevance of the subject matter.

"This topic of female exploitation is a huge deal for me — especially right now — as we see women. I was just watching TV with

my daughter the other day — and we're watching prime-time TV — and I'm seeing these images that I could not believe were happening on prime-time TV, as far as women with very little clothing on, groping a man. I cannot believe that this is OK, and young people see this and they don't even blink an eye," Bentley said. "So this issue of what is acceptable, as far as how we view woman, is very current. We're talking about late 1700s, early 1800s of when this actually happened to [Sarah] Saartjie Baartman, but we can actually see that this is still happening. I like those kinds of works that make us look at something that is happening now."

Even though the topic is current and relatable, Bentley said it will be challenging for the audience to catch everything.

"The pace moves quickly and constantly. So be ready to be challenged in keeping up and be OK with not quite getting everything. ... And let it sink in, and come back to it and say, 'Oh, maybe this is what that meant.' That's part of the theatrical experience," Bentley said.

"Venus" actress and freshman theater education major Thalia Cruz, of Rockford, said people should see this show because it is unusual.

"I think people would be interested because it's not what you would normally see in a theater production here at SIUE. It's different in the way that it's historical, and it sends a message of racism — what it was like to live back in that time — and what happened to Sarah [Saartjie] Baartman and her story," Cruz said.

Due to these morals, Funneman said this play will be memorable for the audience.

"It's a really important message. It's something people are going to talk about. You're not going to see 'Venus' to have a good time and laugh; you're going to see this because it gets in your head," Funneman said.

Bentley said one way audiences will remember this show is by doing their own digging to find out more about the historical aspect of the story.

"The playwright researched this for years; she took, like, five years to research this. And this is her creative interpretation of that research. She took characters she had researched, and combined some, and made them into a character she wanted to present on stage. So it's up to us as audience members to take that and say, 'Let me go do some more research, and see what I find about this woman.' So, I'm hoping people don't just stop at what they see in the play," Bentley said. "I'm hoping that this makes the audience think deeper about issues of exploitation

Alumna Olivia Neal plays the role of Venus in the upcoming Theater and Dance Department's "Venus."

| Photo courtesy of Theater and Dance Department

VENUS

"Venus"

7:30 p.m. Feb. 20-21, and Feb. 25-28
2 p.m. on Feb. 22 and March 1 at The Metcalf Theater

REMOVES THE VEIL ON EXPLOITATION, RACISM

against women from all backgrounds, all economic statuses — just issues related to how we view women, how we treat women [and] how we view women's bodies. And [I hope] that people learn about this woman, and it inspires them to go learn more about her because the play can only do so much."

Funneman said there are also opportunities for the audience to connect with the performers during the show.

"There are a couple times where my character, and the other seven of the chorus members, where there's a little audience at play. There's a little audience interaction; nothing people should worry about, but we get in your face a little bit," Funneman said.

And even if audiences don't want to get involved with the actors, Cruz said they could simply watch the performance and explore the various themes that take place.

"The show is so informative, but it also has its funny parts, and there's a romance involved in it. So it's all different movie genres in one show. And it sends a great message," Cruz said.

While general movie themes are delved into during "Venus," Funneman said actually seeing the play can have a profound impact on people.

"I've walked out of a movie and been like 'Wow, that was really good,' but I've never walked out of a movie changed, and that's what theater can do," Funneman said.

Bentley chose the location for "Venus" very carefully, keeping seating arrangements in mind.

"I wanted this play to be in the Metcalf Theater. It was slated to be over in Dunham Hall. I love both of our spaces here at the university, but I really love the Metcalf because it's our black box theater, meaning that we can adjust it, move it [and] make it any kind of space we want," Bentley said. "And I wanted that intimacy because of the nature of this play; I wanted it to be a play where people felt like the action was right there — like they were part of it at times. And so you can expect to have this feeling of the characters coming in and around and through you at times, and that you are close enough that you can touch. We ask that you not [touch] because some of the costumes will be — you'll want to touch some of them."

Cruz said the costumes will be amusing for the audience.

"There are a lot of interesting characters at the beginning, so there are a lot of interesting costumes that go with it; like, I play a bearded woman, so I get to have a beard," Cruz said.

Technology Director Roger Speidel said the simplicity of the theater led to some complexity in other components of the production.

"Metcalf shows are generally simpler because you have a smaller space. Shows that work well there are the ones that are more driven by the actors in the story they're telling. So, you don't want to overpower that with too many things. Being that it's so simple, you can really be nitpicky and focus on certain things — make those things look really cool," Speidel said.

"The biggest thing I had to build for the show was a cage — a pentagon-shaped cage that they display [Venus] in."

While the Metcalf will provide a more intimate environment, the thrust format for the performance, meaning the audience will be on three sides of the theater, was something to which the actors had to get accustomed.

"Finding that sense — and they're starting to find — that there's audience on three sides of you is something they had to work on, and they are working on that. It's just part of what we do in the training," Bentley said.

Not only did the format of the theater take time for the actors to master, but Cruz also said the timeline of the play was difficult to learn.

"The hardest part, I would say, would be memorizing the lines, and the order of the show because it's backwards in a way. It's just a weird order," Cruz said.

Funneman said he remembered spending a lot of time synchronizing voices with the other members of the chorus.

"A lot of early rehearsals, we worked mostly on chorus work — like just doing a lot of things that help unify the eight of us in one mind because it's really important to drive the show," Funneman said. In spite of its difficult aspects, Cruz said she enjoyed being a chorus member.

"I'm hoping that this makes the audience think deeper about issues of exploitation against women from all backgrounds, all economic statuses ..."

Kathryn Bentley
Director, "Venus"

"My favorite part of being in this play is that as a chorus member we have, like, four different characters that we become. And it's fun to be those characters in the show, and it's also fun to change into those characters from other characters," Cruz said.

According to Bentley, perfecting the various obstacles of "Venus" took a lot of practice.

"We rehearse a total of six weeks, and it's pretty much six days a week, four hours a day. We get a couple days of here and there, but for the most part, a lot of hours go in," Bentley said.

After one of the performances, Bentley said there will also be a discussion that people can attend.

"After that performance on [Sunday] Feb. 22, we'll have a post show discussion moderated by Sandra Weissinger from the sociology and criminal justice department. And so she'll moderate this, and the cast and myself will be part of this discussion. And so we're encouraging people to — especially if you're doing this for a class or have knowledge about this — we're asking you to come to this discussion," Bentley said. "I'm hoping that the campus community comes out, and not only come[s] out just to experience this, but to support your colleagues. There is a lot of work that goes into a production, and I'm hoping folks come out to support them."

"Venus" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20-21, and Feb. 25-28. There will also be performances at 2 p.m. on Feb. 22 and March 1. "Venus" is open to the public. Tickets for the show are free for SIUE students with a valid SIUE ID and can be purchased at the box office in Dunham Hall. Tickets can also be purchased at the door of the Metcalf Theater on the days of the performance.

Puja Mehta can be reached at pmehta@alestlivelive.com or 650-3530.

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OPINION

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the ALESTLE

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We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Care will be taken to ensure that the letter's message is not lost or altered.

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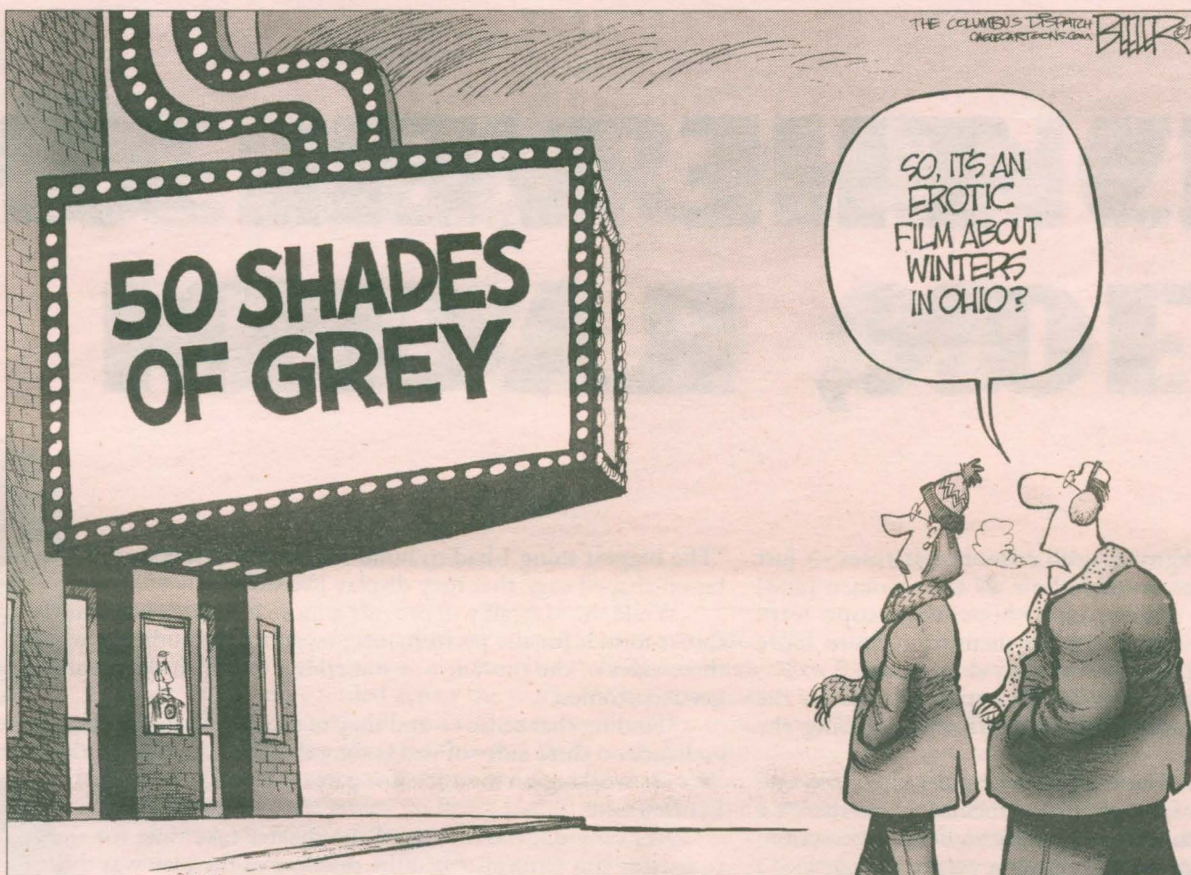
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Lighten up the mood

Smoking ban could help stress-relief smokers find a healthier alternative

For some cigarette smokers, their daily inhale of tobacco is a way to relieve stress. When the upcoming smoking ban hits SIUE in the summer, this may change how these students handle their everyday pressures of being a college student.

Cody King
Alestle
Copy Editor

The bill was passed by former Governor Pat Quinn on May 30, 2014, banning smoking on all Illinois college campuses; however, just because the law will be set in motion does not necessarily guarantee that students will abide by these rules. Given the population of smokers everywhere, some may view this law as an infringement of their rights.

As a student on this campus, several times per week a cloud of smoke that lingers

long after the user has walked past confronts me. I have no choice but to inhale the fumes and feel the carcinogens clouding my airways. I'll see students right out of class getting ready to light a cigarette or pulling out their e-cigarette right after leaving the room. Although everyone can do as they please, there are other ways to handle stress — healthier ways even.

Rather than simply stating where a smoker can and cannot smoke on campus grounds, maybe the solution is education. There are various ways to manage stress. As students, we are paying for Counseling and Health Services through our tuition funds. Even if a student were to schedule just a few appointments, one can learn various coping skills and techniques associated with stress management, which can promote healthier living in general.

The campus could also hold seminars or invite a guest speaker to inform the student body of the risks associated with smoking. I

see more and more smokers using e-cigarettes, almost every day. Given that these devices are fairly new, there's a lot to be learned. Although some may perceive these as healthier, the chemicals could be just as damaging.

College is a crazy time for everyone involved, but we are here to get educated. The smoking ban is inevitable, but how we approach it as a student body is still up for grabs. There are those who will abide by the rules and those who will not; but, regardless of what happens in the future, there's always more room for educating oneself about the overall effects of smoking. This habit has provoked various health risks throughout the years, but in the end, it all comes down to a personal choice.

Cody King can be reached at cking@alestlelive.com.

Students should sever ties with social media in order for better communication

Lets face it — we live in an impersonal society. Two people can walk into the same elevator or sit on the same set of seats on the bus without saying a simple "Hello," and society says that's OK.

Michael Oranika
Alestle
Reporter

Technology such as cellphones and social media allow for one-word replies or total disregard of one's presence altogether, which doesn't really do a lot to fix the problem of being anti-social.

While this technology might seem to conveniently solve our problems, in hindsight, it does a lot to hinder our own personal capabilities and in turn, makes us more impersonal. We rely on social media

sites to remind us of our friend's birthdays, and anniversaries. Text posts on a website are replacing organic interactions such as phone calls and visits.

A study from Florida State University found that social media makes communication more impersonal, which is quite the contradiction. A tool that so many see as revolutionary for making connections, fostering new relationships and communication at any time makes the whole communication process impersonal.

Students are always on their phones-always. We are living our lives through computers, and with as much information as they have to offer, a lot of context gets lost through computers. About fifty percent of interpersonal communication occurs through facial and hand gestures, something that simply cannot be achieved through a Facebook post or text messages.

There has been a surge in the usage of online dating websites because people find it hard to communicate in real life settings, and are more comfortable behind a screen, something who encourages unhealthy communication. Even those that mock the idea of meeting potential mates online use the same medium for communication to foster relationships with their family and friends.

Telling your friend, "Happy birthday" in person is sure to please him or her more than a text message. Asking your friend to the movies sounds way better than a Facebook post saying, "We should hang lol." Students should put down their phones and sever their ties with social media in order to achieve more wholesome conversations and interactions.

Michael Oranika can be reached at moranika@alestlelive.com.

Do you think the university is responsible for educating students, faculty and staff about smoking?

Answer our poll at www.alestlelive.com.

SPORTS

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact the Sports Editor at 650-3524 or sports@alestlelive.com

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Standings



*Standings and Results as of
12 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18

Women's Basketball

	OVERALL	OVC
UT Martin	17-9	13-0
SIUE	15-10	10-2
Tenn. State	12-12	9-4
Jax. State	17-8	8-5
Belmont	11-15	8-5
Morehead St.	11-14	7-5
Austin Peay	9-17	6-7
E. Illinois	8-17	5-7
E. Kentucky	8-14	3-9
SE Missouri	10-16	3-10
Murray State	7-19	2-11
Tenn. Tech	5-21	2-11

Results from Feb. 12

Tenn. State 66, Tenn. Tech 57

SIUE 78, Austin Peay 69

Austin Peay 83, E. Illinois 72

Results from Feb. 14

SE Missouri 88, Murray State 66

UT Martin 91, Austin Peay 63

Belmont 57, Morehead St. 56

Jax. State 67, Tenn. Tech 58

Tenn. State 86, E. Kentucky

Schedule for Feb. 21

SE Missouri at E. Illinois

Tenn. State at Jax. State

Austin Peay at Murray State

Morehead St. at E. Kentucky

UT Martin at SIUE

Belmont at Tenn. Tech

Schedule for Feb. 23

Jax. State at E. Kentucky

Tenn. Tech at Morehead St.

Schedule for Feb. 25

Morehead St. at Tenn. State

SE Missouri at SIUE

Men's Basketball

	OVERALL	OVC
EAST		
E. Kentucky	16-9	8-4
Belmont	16-10	8-5
Morehead St.	12-16	7-6
Tenn. Tech	12-15	4-9
Jax. State	11-17	4-9
Tenn. State	5-22	2-10
WEST		
Murray State	23-4	13-0
UT Martin	16-9	8-4
E. Illinois	15-11	8-5
SE Missouri	12-14	6-7
SIUE	10-14	6-7
Austin Peay	7-19	2-10

Results from Feb. 12

E. Illinois 66, Austin Peay 55

Murray State 78, SIUE 46

Tenn. Tech 71, Tenn. State 52

SE Missouri 98, UT Martin 76

Results from Feb. 14

UT Martin 67, Austin Peay 61

Belmont 58, Morehead St. 57

Murray State 94, SE Missouri 92

SIUE 80, E. Illinois 63

Jax. State 82, Tenn. Tech 68

E. Kentucky 69, Tenn. State 41

Schedule for Feb. 19

E. Kentucky at Belmont

SE Missouri at SIUE

UT Martin at E. Illinois

Schedule for Feb. 21

Austin Peay at Murray State

Tenn. State at Jax. State

UT Martin at SIUE

Belmont at Tenn. Tech

Schedule for Feb. 26

Jax. State at E. Kentucky

UT Martin at Tenn. State

SIUE at Austin Peay

E. Illinois at Murray State

Tenn. Tech Morehead State



Senior forward Rozell Nunn tries to get past a Murray State University defender in a game during the 2014-15 season. On Saturday, Feb. 14, Nunn helped the Cougars defeat Eastern Illinois University, scoring 11 points. | Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

Men's basketball cruises past Eastern Illinois University

BEN LEVIN

Alestle Sports Editor

Sparked by a 45-point first half, the men's basketball team trounced Eastern Illinois University 80-63 on Saturday, Feb. 14, inching the team one game closer to a .500 record in the Ohio Valley Conference.

At 6-7, the Cougars are toward the bottom of the OVC as the conference tournament picture looms. Head Coach Lennox Forrester said he believed the team could make the tournament if it plays like it did against EIU.

"For our team, it's something that we have to finish out the season," Forrester said. "The way we played tonight, we just have to do a great job. We still have [to] work our way to making the [OVC] tournament. It's coming down to that right now. Every game is so important for us."

The Cougars are coming off a three-game road losing streak, where the team struggled this season, going 1-11. Forrester said being in front of the SIUE fans was a big boost for the team.

"It was great to be back [home]," Forrester said. "It was great to see our guys play well for

once in a long time and to be able to walk away with a win tonight."

Being at home may have helped the team as a whole, but senior guard Michael Messer made a big difference for the Cougars, scoring a game and season high of 23 points.

Messer said his performance came from good passes from his teammates.

"I didn't have to do anything special to get open shots tonight," Messer said. "Really big credit to [his teammates]. They were doing a really good job of making my guy help, making two or three guys really stop them trying to get to the basket, and that just opens up wide-open shots for everyone else."

Forrester gave Messer credit and said it was the kind of showing he expects from his senior guard.

"I thought he played a tremendously well game," Forrester said. "He played under control; he was ready to shoot the basketball. He knocked them in. Guys were finding him. I know he's capable of that. It was great that he was making shots because that helped extend our lead."

Following Messer's lead, senior forward Rozell Nunn dropped 18 points on the Panthers, going 6-9

from the field. Nunn, along with junior forward Jake Newton, were critical to the SIUE defense that held EIU to a 47.1 shooting percentage.

Forrester said Nunn and Newton's efforts helped on both ends of the court.

"[Nunn] sparked us," Forrester said. "[Newton] sparked us because he was able to come up with some big steals to where we were able to go down and score. Anytime you get steals and easy baskets, that's great."

Seniors guard Kris Davis and forward Keaton Jackson were the other Cougar players to finish in double figures. Davis, whose efforts were strong on the defensive end, grabbed seven rebounds and swiped three steals, scoring 11 points. Jackson used his size to dominate the EIU defense that gave up 40 points in the paint to score 10 points and bring down seven rebounds.

Although the bench did not give the Cougars many points, junior forward Michael Chandler played a big role in holding EIU to 63 points, coming up with three blocks in his 10 minutes on the court.

The Cougars have three games

before the OVC tournament, and are just barely in the postseason picture. Messer said the team cannot look past any of its next three opponents.

"Just like coach tells us, every single game we feel like we can win," Messer said. "We've seen every team in our conference, and it's a good conference, but we know what we're capable of doing. We just need to take it one game at a time."

The team's final game will be an away match-up against Austin Peay State University. Messer said the team needs to work on its mentality to get a crucial road victory.

"We need to have consistent energy," Messer said. "I know having your fans by you, everybody knows that helps you when you're playing college basketball, but we really just need to bring that same intensity and same energy."

The Cougars' next game is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Vandalia Center, where they take on Southeast Missouri State University. The game will be broadcast on Fox Sports Midwest.

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

Men's Basketball Statistics SIUE 80, E. Illinois 63

SIUE

Michael Messer 23 pts (8-12, 3-4 3pt)
Rozell Nunn 18 pts (6-9, 3-5 3pt)
Kris Davis 11 pts (5-10, 7 rebs)
Keaton Jackson 10 pts (5-10, 7 rebs)
Donivine Stewart 8 pts (3-4, 9 assists)
Michael Chandler 4 pts (2-2, 3 blocks)
Jake Newton 4 pts (2-4)

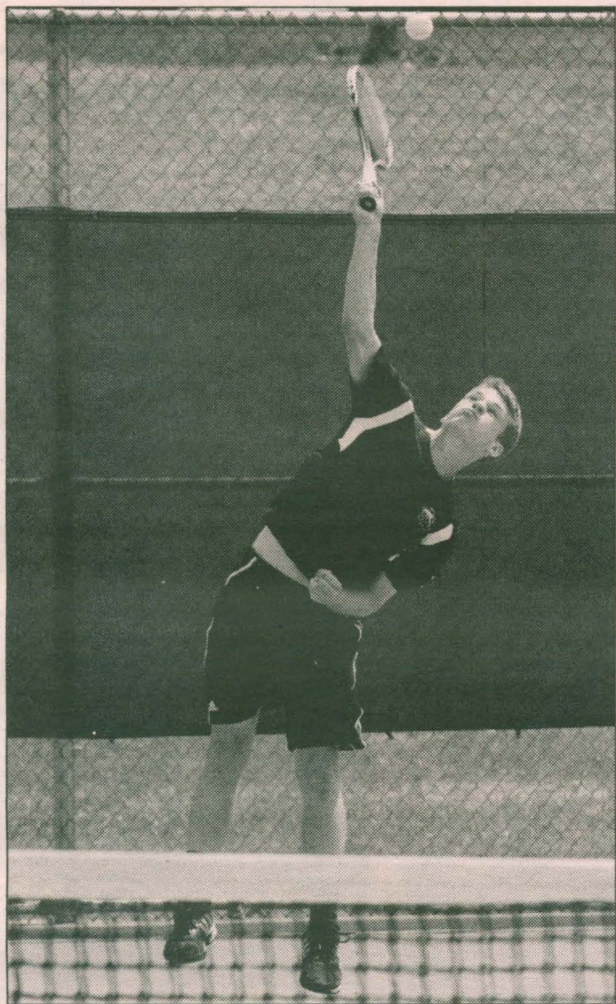
C.J. Carr 2 pts (1-5, 3 rebs)
Maurice Wiltz 0 pts (0-1, 2 assists)
Grant Florentinos 0 pts (0-0)
Jalen Henry 0 pts (0-0)

EIU

Dylan Chatman 15 pts (5-10, 4 rebs)
Trae Anderson 11 pts (4-8, 3 assists)
Reggie Smith 11 pts (4-7, 4 rebs)

Chris Olivier 9 pts (4-6, 3 rebs)
Cornell Johnston 7 pts (3-8, 3 assists)
Anthony Johnson 3 pts (1-3, 4 rebs)
Josh Piper 3 pts (1-1)
LeTrell Viser 2 pts (1-4)
Luke Piotrowski 2 pts (1-4, 2 rebs)
Keenen Anderson 0 pts (0-0)
Jake Verhagen 0 pts (0-0)

Men's tennis goes 5-1 at home



Junior Patrick Gaffigan goes up for a serve in a game during the Spring 2014 season. | Alestle File Photo

CAITLIN GROVE
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

After splitting games the weekend prior, the men's tennis team came back strong, defeating Oral Roberts University 5-1 Sunday, Feb. 15.

Head Coach Jason Coomer said the team was successful in doing what it needed to in order to obtain the win.

"We knew it was going to be a tough match going into it; our guys prepared throughout the week and they were ready for the challenge," Coomer said. "The work they put in during the week was evident when we got to the match."

On Sunday, the Cougars won two of their three doubles matches. In the first doubles match of the day, seniors Nicolas Vincent and Stephen Washuta were defeated by their opponents 8-6. In the No. 2 match, redshirt junior Marten Jonsson and junior Nico Kuehn won by a score of 8-6. In the final doubles match, sophomore Matthew Hutchinson and junior Patrick Gaffigan won by a score of 8-3.

Coomer said he was impressed with how well the team performed in its doubles matches.

"We played as well as we have played all year in doubles," Coomer said. "We have three very good teams right now, all of which played extremely well on Sunday."

The team won four of its six singles matches. Each match went two sets, with the exception of the No. 1 match, where Vincent took his opponent the full three sets before emerging victorious 6-2, 6-7, 6-2. Kuehn dominated with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 win in the No. 3 singles match. In match No. 6, Gaffigan won in an unfinished match.

Coomer said in singles, the team came out and took control of its matches early.

"We were very patient and followed the game plan

from the beginning," Coomer said. "That's an indication of an experienced team — when you can have a game plan and put them in the position to be successful."

Coomer said Vincent's performance was what he expected from his senior athlete.

"[Vincent] played against a very good opponent. When they got to the third set, you could see the experience level he possessed," Coomer said.

Coomer said even though the team is playing well, its schedule is going to demand continuous weekly improvement in order to put the Cougars where they want to be.

"Our schedule is only going to get tougher, which is how we designed it when we put [it] together," Coomer said. "We've got to continue to improve in the areas that we are doing well [in]. Our players understand that and are looking forward to that challenge. If we keep putting forth the effort that we've been up until this point, I think there's still quite a bit of success to be found."

The Cougars have a two-week break before their next game, and Coomer said the team intends to take full advantage of it.

"We've got two weeks here to prepare for our next home stand and we've got two very good opponents coming in," Coomer said. "We know that even though we have some time off, we have to utilize and value each day of training we have so we can take our game to the next level when [the University of Southern Indiana] and [Northern Illinois University] come to town."

The team's next game is at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Edwardsville YMCA against Southern Indiana.

Caitlin Grove can be reached at cgrove@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

Baseball aims for conference crown in 2015

CAITLIN GROVE
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

After falling short at the 2014 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, the men's baseball team holds high hopes for the fast approaching 2015 season.

Despite finishing below .500 in 2014, the Cougars emerged 16-14 in conference play, making it to the OVC Tournament before falling short in two games to Morehead State University and Jacksonville State University.

Assistant Coach Danny Jackson said as for improvements, refining pitching falls as one of the main goals as the spring season begins.

"We didn't pitch well at times last year," Jackson said. "With the guys we have returning, and another year of experience for a lot of the younger guys, I think we'll be able to do that. We threw a lot more strikes so far this spring; our guys have been a lot better, so I think that's one area we are going to be much improved in."

Jackson said despite losing two

key seniors, the team is not going to let it negatively affect them going into this new season.

"[Devin Caldwell] was a great player and [Jake Stauffenberg] was a good guy too, but that's just two guys — we have everyone else returning from the team last year," Jackson said. "We think we are in a really good spot with a lot of returners, so I don't think it's going to affect us too much."

Senior infielder Chase Green, who finished 2014 with the team's third highest batting average, .292,

said the team has great potential to follow through on its goals.

"I think we are very capable of being one of the best teams in the league," Green said. "We have a lot of experience — we're definitely an older team. Our keys are going to be staying healthy and overcoming points of adversity throughout the year."

Jackson said this year's team is full of potential leaders.

"[Green's] really emerged as our leader — he's been a vocal leader and he's done a really good job," Jackson said. "I think [senior pitcher] Ryan Daniels leads by example, [senior outfielder] Nick Lombardo and [senior outfielder] Denton Reed are two guys who could really emerge as leaders this year as well."

Green said the team sets overall goals and each player's individual goals stem off of the team's plans.

"If you work toward your team goals, the individual goals take care of themselves," Green said. "Team goals would be to definitely make the conference tournament and win — if we can't win, then obviously make regionals."

Jackson said with the chemistry the team has, a successful season is within reach.

"We have a lot of seniors this year — a good group of older kids with a lot of experience," Jackson said. "Whenever you have that good leadership, it's a good recipe for success. We are looking forward to it and I think we're going to have a good year."

The Cougars play their first home game at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, against Saint Louis University.

Opening weekend woes
In the team's first weekend of

ballgames, the baseball team went winless, losing to the University of Notre Dame and Oklahoma University in the three-game trip to Norman, Okla.

On Friday, Feb. 13, the team took Notre Dame to the brink, but lost 7-6. After taking a 6-5 lead in the top of the seventh inning, senior Brett Thomas gave up a two-run home run to give the Fighting Irish a lead they would hold for the remainder of the game.

Senior Ryan Daniels went three innings in his first start of the year, giving up two earned runs off three hits in his time on the mound.

Senior second baseman Chase Green led the Cougar's offense, going 2-for-4 with a home run in the second inning.

In the Cougar's first game against OU, SIUE secured six hits against the host, but were blown out 11-1.

Despite giving up no earned runs, junior Jarrett Bednar was saddled with the loss, with five runs crossing the plate in his three innings of work. Bednar struck out two, while allowing three hits.

Freshman outfielder Dustin Woodcock was the only Cougar with more than one hit, going 2-for-4, with a home run in the top of the fifth.

The final game of the weekend saw the Cougars lose 9-1 to Oklahoma, getting only five hits in Sunday's loss.

Sophomore Mike Miller took home the loss, going three innings and giving up two earned runs.

Senior outfielder Denton Reed had the lone run batted in for the Cougars in the sixth inning.

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Cougar Briefs

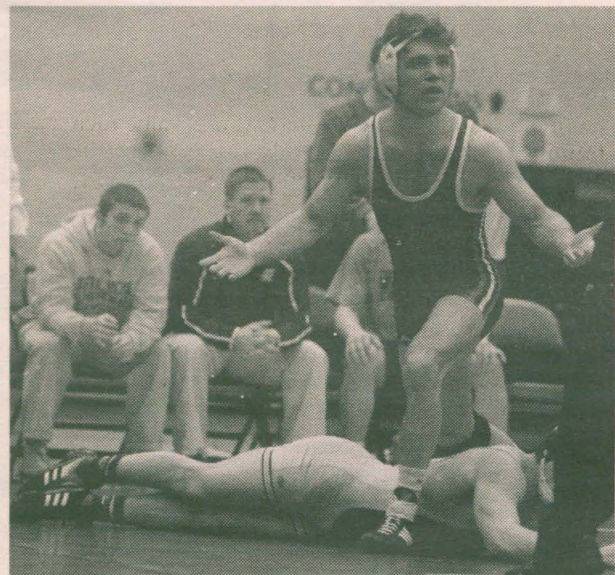
Wrestling goes winless during weekend

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

Facing Gardner-Webb University and Big Ten powerhouse, the University of Indiana on Sunday, Feb. 15, the wrestling team went 0-2.

Despite the team's struggles as a whole, redshirt freshman Angelo Silvestro put together a solid day, winning both of his matches in the 141-pound division. Against Gardner-Webb opponent Ryan Hull, Silvestro had a dominant 10-4 victory. Silvestro wrestled another strong match against Sean Brown from Indiana, winning 9-0 by major decision.

The other SIUE victors of the day were freshman Nathan Day, who won both of his matches due to forfeit, freshman Clayton Bass and sophomore Dakota Leach.



Redshirt freshman Angelo Silvestro stands over his opponent in a match earlier this season. | Photo by Christian K. Lee/Alestle

Wrestling at 157 pounds, Bass got a major decision victory against Gardner-Webb's Joseph Evans, winning 13-0. Bass, who has predominately wrestled at 165 pounds, moved to 1-1 in the 157-pound division.

At Indiana, Leach won 4-1 against Alonzo Shepherd at 133 pounds. With the victory, Leach improved his overall season record to 5-4.

The Cougars' next match is at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, when they take on conference foe University of Tennessee at Chattanooga at the Vadalabene Center.

Softball goes 3-1 during weekend

Following a 4-1 weekend that saw the Cougars win the Lady Techster Invitational, the softball team remained on the winning patch, defeating Elon University and Troy University at the Georgia Tournament during the weekend.

In the team's first game on Friday, Feb. 13, the Cougars dominated Elon, winning 10-0, with a four-run seventh inning that helped secure the win.

Junior Haley Chambers threw a two-hitter, going all seven innings and striking out 13 of the 25 batters she faced on the day.

Not only was Chambers' presence felt on the mound, but also at the plate as well, where she went 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Senior shortstop Alex McDavid had a team-high three hits in the game, including a triple that gave her a run, batted in during the game.

After a tough loss at the hands of University of Georgia, where the team gave up five unearned runs, the Cougars went undefeated on Saturday, Feb. 14, defeating Elon with a three-run second inning to start the day.

The big hit of the inning came off the bat of senior outfielder Brittany Toney, who blasted a two-run home run to get the Cougars on the board. Junior outfielder Jordan LaFave got an RBI triple to give the Cougars the three runs they would need to defeat Elon 3-2.

Continuing her undefeated start to the season,

Chambers got her fifth victory of the season, giving up two earned runs off of seven hits in her six innings of work. Freshman pitcher Baylee Douglass got her second save of the year, throwing a hitless seventh inning.

The day was big for Douglass, who in the team's second game of the day, got her first win in her first college game in a 5-2 defeat of Troy.

Relieving sophomore pitcher Alexis Kohrs in the bottom of the third inning, Douglass went 4 1/3 innings, giving up no runs off three hits and striking out six.

LaFave provided another important hit for the Cougars in this game, smacking a single in the bottom of the fifth inning to score two.

The last game of the tournament, where the Cougars would have faced Georgia again, was cancelled.

The team's next game is at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, when it travels to Auburn, Ala. to compete against the University of Connecticut in the Auburn Tournament.

Women's basketball last away game moved to Thursday

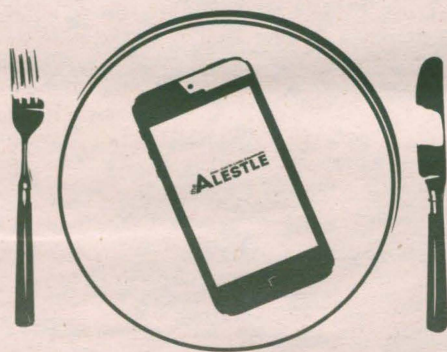
The women's basketball team was scheduled to play Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, but the game was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Cougars are now scheduled to play at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

The game, which will be the last road game for the Cougars, gives the team a full week of rest since they last appeared in a 78-69 victory against Murray State University.

After the game at Austin Peay, the Cougars will return home for the final three games of the season, starting with the University of Tennessee at Martin at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

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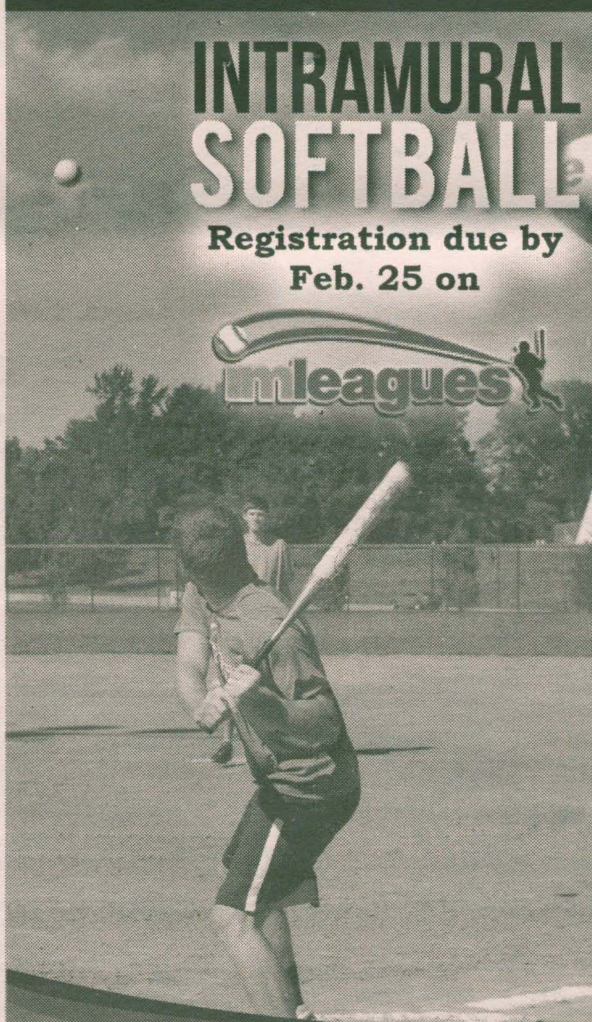
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